



The Weekly Wrap Up

March 31, 2006

From Viola Miller, Tennessee's Commissioner for
The Department of Children's Services

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. GREELEY

The WWU just got this note from Jeanne Brooks:

Teresa Rafael, national Director of the Children's Trust Funds, just called me to tell me that **Chris Greeley, MD**, has won the Helfer Award.

This is the national award for the pediatrician who has done the most for a Children's Trust Fund over the past year. We nominated Chris for his work with our Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee. Chris will be given the award at the Prevent Child Abuse national meeting in May. He is very excited, and we are all just thrilled.

The Tennessee Children's Trust Fund nominated him because he has given selflessly of his time to serve as one of the six voting members of the DCS Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee. He's supported the Committee by providing us the latest research on child abuse prevention, by helping us develop a funding strategy for Tennessee prevention programs and by supporting our efforts to develop an statewide plan to reduce child abuse in Tennessee.

Dr. Greeley is a committed and caring professional, passionate about ending child abuse.

LET THEM KNOW WHO'S GRADUATING



It is not too late to submit names of eligible 2005-2006 graduates for the Celebration of Excellence Banquet! Please provide graduation verification and original W-9s to the Independent Living Program by April 7, 2006.

Core Leadership Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Petrina Jones-Jesz, Chairwoman

Commissioner Comments:

Children's Cabinet:

The Children's Cabinet added \$500,000.00 in the budget for post custody services. The Commissioner needs more information around this target group of children. We need to keep \$500,000.00 flexible enough to cover various expenses. How many Juvenile Justice children exit YDC's and aren't eligible for post custody services? How many of these children obtain GED's, or traditional diplomas, etc. Only 27 of our children last year were eligible for the Enhanced Hope scholarship for foster children last year. The primary reason for ineligibility is due to GPA's. Even children with GED's are eligible for the Hope scholarship if they have a score of 21 on the ACT. We need to use ACT prep programs to work with YDC's to improve ACT scores for these children. We need to encourage most of our children to start in post secondary education at community colleges. Tam Gordon wants to know if our children are going to post secondary, 2 year, 4 year or technical colleges. Audrey Corder, Ken Stevenson, and Steve Hornsby will provide this information to the Commissioner.

Commissioner stated we have to think about getting our Juvenile Justice children eligible for Chaffee dollars. Audrey stated the new Chaffee rollout might include Juvenile Justice children. We need to have our children utilize all expense streams possible.

Commissioner would like state colleges and institutions to waive tuition for these children.

Juvenile Justice Work: Steve Hornsby and Kirk Lane

Kirk Lane is the Director of Regional Services for Juvenile Justice. Steve Hornsby stated this is an area where we can improve our regional presence with community partners and court system. One of Kirk's main responsibilities is to develop a system of delinquency prevention and deterrents.

There are model evidence-based programs such as OJJDP and Colorado Blueprints; therefore, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We would like to invest more money in community-based partnerships. Kirk was in Weakly County last week working with Keith Jones on community partnerships. They are asking for assistance from DCS and they will do the work. Kirk has been meeting with courts, judges, private providers, and law enforcement agencies. Keith Jones and his judge view themselves as developing court led CFTM model that can be transferable. Kirk stated Weakley County's two main strengths are community collaboration and CFTM's. Of the 25

people in the meeting 23 were involved in CFTM's. Kirk stated that Dr. May stated UT Martin was interested in becoming a Center of Excellence (COE).

One of the main challenges is assessing needs and services for at risk kids with A&D. They have an evidence-based A&D program for adults. Kirk will assist the county in exploring prevention funds.

Early Intervention:

Weakley County would like to have someone to facilitate CFTM's in the schools and invite others rather than having to refer children and families to court.

Updates on Web development applications and TnKids release: Michael Bowie

Michael provided the TnKids Release Functionality and Delivery Status of Web-Based Applications handout and discussed the TnKids release schedule. Eighty-five to Ninety percent of reports will be affected by the new TnKids release. Michael felt we could deliver some of the needed fixes via TnKids rather than a web-based program. The TnKids build is massive and training is a critical piece. We need to be thoughtful about the role out piece and engage the field in utilization. User Acceptance Training (UAT) needs to include YDC's and group homes. YDC's and group homes may need some separate modules – process to extract data

Next Steps:

Business process mapping on YDC's – Laurie Baker and Ken Steverson

DCS Mission Statement: Tom Riche

DCS has had several mission statements and we need to identify one and agree on it. We need to capture the essence of what the Department does. Tom suggested that we put a committee together that includes representatives from each division of the Department to develop a mission statement. The Commissioner suggested that we have a strategic planning process. However, we are not stable enough at this time for a long involved strategic planning process. In the interim, we need to develop a single mission and vision statement until we are ready to begin the strategic planning process.

Next Step: Put back on Agenda for next leadership meeting as an interim measure

Procedure Manuals: Petrina Jones-Jesz

Brenda and Petrina are collecting DCS procedure manuals. Some of the manuals are up to date and some are not current. Brenda and Petrina still haven't received all the procedure manuals. They are trying to determine if we need certain procedure manuals and if so how to keep them updated. The active manuals that we are using need to be referenced in policy document (COA requirement). Brenda stated manuals would be discovered through the COA review. All manuals need to be identified and submitted to Brenda and Petrina. If in doubt, submit to Brenda and Petrina. A major concern was outdated manuals may be used in the field.

TennCare Standards: Mary Beth Franklyn

Mary Beth Franklyn provided a handout on covered reimbursement for children and families. The purpose of the document is to help provide the answers to frequently asked questions about what can be covered through regional fiscal funding (flex funding/needs assessment), in order to encourage folks to do “whatever it takes” to lead the child to permanency.

We need to ensure that regional staff uses TennCare resources first before accessing DCS dollars for medically necessary services, and this document addresses frequently asked questions along that line as well.

We have made attempts to educate fiscal management teams and encourage relationships with CFTM facilitators, fiscal teams and health units.

Commissioner Miller asked whether staff to know they have money to spend if children and families need services. In doing so, case managers can be supported to identify everything families need including their basic needs.

Next Steps:

Mary Beth will contact Diane Irwin and attend the CFTM facilitators meeting in April.

Provide training to CFTM facilitators on front end Management treatment and planning for example, understanding the type of front-end service needs for a young sexually abused child. Mary Beth will partner with fiscal staff person to provide training.

Disseminate “Whatever it Takes” document to health units, fiscal teams, Regional Justice Team Meetings, RA’s, and Psychologist.

John B. and Grier: Mary Jane Davis

We have 5 new monitors appointed and within next month will meet with state staff to prepare a report. John B. consent decree is broken into 5 parts. There will be a meeting or presentation where state presents to them. This is our opportunity to let them know we are in compliance. Monitors would determine if we are in compliance. Mary Jane will be contacting several Executive Directors within the next month.

-- ERIC HENDERSON